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A Fresh Guide to the Summer Music Festival Scene

FISHFEST • SMOKIN' GROOVES
EAST END BLOCK PARTY • KROQ WEENIE ROAST
DAY OF MUSIC FULLERTON • GNARLYTOWN
JAZZ FEST (TRIBUTE TO RAY CHARLES)

NOTHING FEST • SUN SOAKED • DISRUPT FEST
ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE LBC

SAD SUMMER FEST • 25TH ANNUAL BRAZILIAN SUMMER FEST
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JOHN GILHOOLEY

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"Interesting. So it wasn't a racist white guy, yet a racist Mexican guy. I thought only whites were privileged [sic] enough to be racist. . . . What does Gustavo have to say about this? Not much, since it doesn't support his narrative."

—Gaba gaba gabacho, commenting on Anthony Pignataro's "Remembering When the Home of Placentia's First African American Family Was Firebombed" (May 16)

We respond: Not much because Gustavo doesn't work here. He's now at the *LA "By God" Times*, you slack-jawed yokel.

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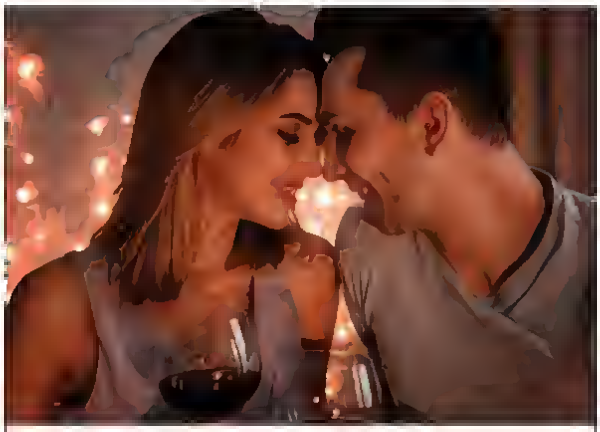

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Justice Strikes Out

DA's office and SAUSD fail high-school baseball players molested by coach

You might guess that if a school district's trustees had nothing to hide, they would insist on helping to discover damage caused by an adult sports coach who relentlessly pursued sexual relations with 13- and 14-year-old boys.

But that's oddly not the case at the Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD), where at least seven freshman baseball players endured Carlos Salcito Sales Jr.'s illicit attention during the 2014-15 school year. The junior-varsity coach sent photographs of his genitalia, inquired about the students' penis sizes and issued date invitations. Sales also sent love messages, initiated unwanted fondling, masturbated in the players' presence and urged the kids to send him their personalized child pornography.

»R. SCOTT MOXLEY

Though district bureaucrats would later pretend the offenses were inconsequential, those abuses at Segerstrom High School ended when the mother of one victim saw alarming messages on her son's cellphone and called the police. Arrested, fired and charged with 16 child-molestation-related felonies, Sales eventually admitted guilt in exchange for a plea deal that held him accountable for just one crime: "I did willfully, lewdly and unlawfully attempt to commit lewd and lascivious acts upon the [bodies] of children under the age of 15 with the intent of arousing, appealing to and gratifying the lust passion desires of me and said children," he confessed.

On May 18, 2018, Superior Court Judge Sheila Hanson, a former prosecutor, accepted the sweetheart deal with Sales' defense lawyer, Michael Molfetta, her buddy in the Orange County district attorney's office for half a decade. Molfetta also endorsed Hanson's campaign for the bench.

The punishment for his client? Officially, two years of incarceration—but that term was a mirage.

Even prison officials were shocked as Sales' one-year anniversary in prison approached. Noting that Hanson's ruling required them to free the 28-year-old inmate on May 18, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) sent a late-April letter to the judge, notifying her that a possible "illegal sentence exists." According to their interpretation of state law, the punishment appeared low for a chronic abuser of kids.

Four days before Sales' scheduled release, Hanson placed a memo in the court file stating she'd received the CDCR notice but observed that "upon imposition of sentence, there was no objection by the People [under then-District Attorney Tony Rackauckas' administration] or defendant." The judge concluded by indicating she would take no step to extend the incarceration. According to the CDCR, Sales—who was housed at a medium-security state prison in Norco—is now free.

Meanwhile, the chase to obtain some semblance of justice has fallen to Joho Manly, the attorney representing the SAUSD victims. Manly is internationally respected for his dogged pursuit of sex-abuse cases, especially involving two-faced Catholic Church clergy, college leadership and USA Gymnastics officials. In 2014, he won his clients a $140 million judgment against the Los Angeles Unified School District after Mark Berndt, one of its elementary-school teachers, repeatedly fed his unwitting students semen-laced cookies.

Manly's courthouse opposition in the SAUSD litigation is Dana Alden Fox, a talented Los Angeles-based lawyer routinely summoned at lucrative taxpayer expense to rescue government agencies, particularly tainted law-enforcement departments, caught in ugly scandals. Having coveted Fox for years, I most recently featured him and his flamboyant, cutthroat courtroom tactics when he defended the Orange County Sheriff's Department and one of its deputies, Nicholas Caropino, who'd raped the daughter of a former member of *The Real Housewives of Orange County* while on duty in June 2014. (See "Feisty Lawyer Couldn't Save OC Sheriff in Blown Sexual Assault Probes," Aug. 10, 2017.)

In late November 2017, Manly launched the battle by filing an 85-page lawsuit alleging sexual harassment, negligence, constructive fraud, intentional infliction of emotional distress, breach of fiduciary duty and public-entity liability. "[Sales] used his position of authority and trust acting on behalf of [SAUSD] to gain access to children, including the minor plaintiffs, on the school facilities and grounds and off campus, where he would take the plaintiffs to [college] baseball games and movie theaters, in which he engaged in sexual talk and innuendo," the lawsuit states. "Such conduct was in front of and/or with the full knowledge of other baseball coaches and staff at the high school and the school district."

Manly also alleged that the "serial sexual abuse of this nature, duration and extent of that engaged in by Sales could not have been accomplished without the aid and assistance of many other school-district staff or administration officials."

He believes SAUSD managers "turned a blind eye" to criminal conduct that has left the victims emotionally scarred, robbed of their childhood, anxious, depressed and untrusting of adults.

To derail the plaintiffs, Fox devised a series of roadblocks on behalf of the school district's leadership, which now includes Valerie Amezcua, Rigo Rodriguez, Alfonso Alvarez and Joho Palacio. First, he moved for summary judgment by claiming the controversy should be "time-barred" from jury consideration. That failed.

Fox then refused Manly's request to inspect documents related to allegations of sexual misconduct involving all SAUSD employees since 2010, around the time of Sales' hire as an "athletic specialist" for $3,566 per season. He said he would only hand over records pertaining to the convicted baseball coach. Otherwise, the demand was "grossly over-broad," he opined.

In recent weeks, Superior Court Judge Martha K. Gooding rejected the stance, calling it "untenable" given well-established California case law.

Manly next asked SAUSD to surrender school yearbooks for the period when Sales coached. That evidence could help investigators discover additional victims and more potential district negligence. Fox again objected. "The yearbooks are full of photographs of and information about *totally unrelated minors* [his emphasis]," he argued as justification for secrecy. Asking for such records was simply a way for the plaintiffs to "harass" the school district. After all, he said, "third-party minors" should have public-school-yearbook privacy.

Gooding wasn't impressed here either, ruling "persons in the yearbooks do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy" in a publication that already has been readily distributed in the community. She ordered SAUSD to comply with Manly's requests. Over Fox's objections, the judge slapped a $3,000 sanction on the district for its stall tactics.

A jury trial is tentatively set for Aug. 26 in Santa Ana.

RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

Migra Mouse Turns 25!

» GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

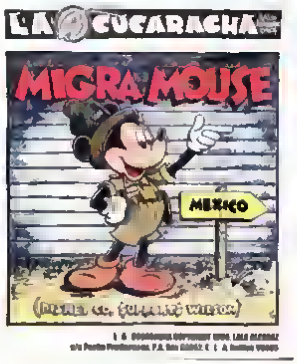
There's one mousay milestone that won't be marked with a "Get Your Ears On" celebration at Disneyland this year, although it endures in Chicano political memory. Back in 1994, California Governor Pete Wilson wielded Proposition 187—a ballot initiative wanting to strip "illegals" of access to public services—to help win re-election. *La Cucaracha* cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz responded in *LA Weekly* with agitprop.

He didn't parody Pete, but instead gave Mickey Mouse a *migra* makeover for the ages. "I saw in the news that the Walt Disney Co. was supporting Wilson," Alcaraz recalls. "To be fair, they also donated money to Kathleen Brown, his opponent. That's what big corporations do. They hedge their bets."

But he remembers Disney dubbing their animated features in Spanish around that same time. Making forays into the Spanish-speaking immigrant market while supporting Wilson struck him as hypocritical. A Mickey Mouse spoof was in order. "I dressed him up as a border patrol agent with really cute shorts," Alcaraz says. "I like to say it was my first viral image."

Migra Mouse proved so popular that Alcaraz used it for the title and cover of his first political cartoon book on immigration a decade later.

Though he never heard a peep from Disney about the toon, Alcaraz did get a call about a Pixar project a year after drawing "Muerto Mouse," this time satirizing Disney's ill-fated attempt to trademark "*Día de los Muertos*" for merchandise. But it led to him being brought in as a cultural consultant for *Coco*, an Oscar-winning animated film.



"I took that chance by joining their *Coco* team even after having been one of the voices pushing back against Disney for trying to trademark *Día de los Muertos*," says Alcaraz, now a cultural consultant for *The Casagrandes*, an animated Nickelodeon series about a Mexican family due in October.

Twenty-five years later, Migra Mouse's legacy remains a lasting one.

"People bring up Migra Mouse to me all the time," says Alcaraz. "The image is a reminder that it's okay to point big corporations in the right direction of working with the community and not against it."

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

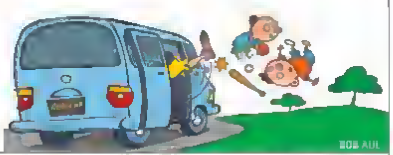
HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Park Free-Ranger

I was at my local park with my daughter, killing time until we had to pick up her sister from dance class, when your children wandered by. Your older son stopped and explained he was looking for the bathroom for his younger brother and asked if I knew where it was. I gently inquired where his mom or dad was, and he informed me that you had dropped him and his brother off while you did your shopping. At just 8 years old, he was put in charge of his 5-year-old sibling in a public park. (And by the way, he showed absolutely zero stranger-danger awareness and freely answered every question I asked!)

Are you just a neglectful parent, or do you think we're living in Mayberry? Are you so overwhelmed by motherhood you couldn't bear to take your boys to the store with you? My conscience wouldn't let me leave; I called a friend to pick up my other daughter so I could continue to watch over my little one and yours. When you pulled up more than an hour after I met your boys, you honked the horn and yelled for them. They waved at me, then ran off. But while they hustled to you, I took photos of your car and license plate. And now I'm trying to decide whether to report you to the local police or Child Protective Services.



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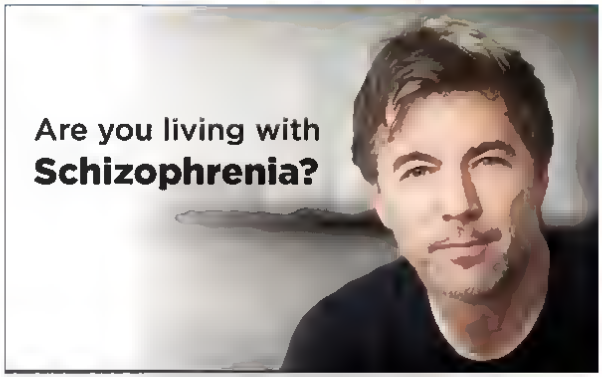
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JAM-PACKED!

A FRESH GUIDE TO THE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL SCENE

BY NATE JACKSON, STEVE DONOFRIO, MORGAN EDWARDS AND LAUREN GALVAN

There was a time when a festival was a rare, mystical occurrence that happened only once or twice a year when the stars aligned and the Gods of Suburbia saw fit to grant us something memorable to do with our weekend. These days, the festival scene can feel more like an in-fest-ation—usually in the most positive sense of the word. Though it's now a year-round thing, there's no arguing that summer is still king when it comes to outdoor antics. Who would've thought OC would be right at the center of it all, garnering more action than ever, from grassroots gatherings on the streets of Fullerton to three-day bacchanals at Doheny State Beach?

With festivals being the automatic template for live music outdoors, it's no surprise we have more than our fair share. In an effort to keep your weekends jam-packed from June to September, we've compiled a list of the fests you can't afford to miss. (Well, as long as you've put some money aside and perhaps extended a line of credit.)

FISHFEST

Now that Coachella finally decided to acknowledge the Sunday Service (thanks, Kanye West), maybe you're ready to see what a real religious festival is about. This full-day buffet of praise music, hosted by The Fish FM 95.9 and produced by Transparent Productions, draws more than 15,000 faithful and has been sold out for 11 years running. Headlined by Timberland-esque R&B and hip-hop polymath TobyMac, this year's FishFest offers a wide range of your favorite Christian artists, from bearded rocker Zach Williams to bilingual Spanish pop duo Genessis & Nikki. You can also play games and meet some of your fellow Christian brethren. We'd say "hell yeah!" to that, but maybe we should go with "hallelujah!" instead. (Nate Jackson) *At FivePoint Amphitheatre, 14800 Chinon, Irvine, thefishoc.com. June 1, 3 p.m. $19.59-$17.59. All ages.*

EAST END BLOCK PARTY

Konsept collective's annual collision of cultures prides itself on its grassroots platform giving local artists of all stripes a chance to shine. Occupying six stages with dozens of artists for a full day of music, the community-based, free event features a lineup curated by fellow collectives such as Top Acid, Feel Good Collective and Orange County Music League. This year offers a mix of everything from hip-hop to banda, from EDM to alternative rock. Whether you're bouncing to rapper Hi-Tone or watching the crowd-surfing chaos during a performance by the Hurricanes, the youthful spirit of Santa Ana never fails to show up, show out and make some noise. (NJ) *On Fourth Street, between Bush and French streets, Santa Ana; www.eastendblockparty.com. June 8, noon-10 p.m. All ages.*

KROQ WEENIE ROAST & LUAU

The yearly tradition that is the KROQ Weenie Roast is back in Orange County and ready to rock your hosiery off. From 1993 to 2019, this fest has been drawing crowds with its big-name lineups. This year's includes the Lumineers, X Ambassadors and the Regrettes, all of whom promise to dominate the stage at the Weenie Roast's new seaside venue, Doheny State Beach. The X Ambassadors bring more than rock to the stage as their passionate and blind keyboardist Casey Harris steals the show. And the fest recently announced the addition of DJ Snoopadelic (a.k.a. Snoop Dogg). Remember to bring your sandals and towels, but do leave your lawn chairs and rainbow beach umbrellas at home. All proceeds help charities such as the nonprofits Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association and Heal the Bay. (Lauren Galvan) *At Doheny State Beach, 25300 Dana Point Harbor Dr., Dana Point; kroq.radio.com/weenieroast. June 8, 1 p.m. $99.99-$199.99. All ages.*

SMOKIN' GROOVES FEST

Debuting in 1996, Smokin' Grooves Fest is back for its second year after a 16-year hiatus at the *Queen Mary* Events Park. Hosted by Joe Kay, this year's festival boasts a stellar lineup, with headliners Erykah Badu, Kali Uchis, Common and Usher. The soulful celebration fuses R&B and hip-hop in a one-day affair that has become a staple of Long Beach's festival season. This revolutionary event was created by Kevin Morrow to give rap and soul acts a place onstage at a time when the Warped Tour reigned supreme.

ED CARRASCO

JOHN GILBOOLEY

Smokin' Grooves is family-friendly, allowing children younger than 5 in for free with the purchase of one adult ticket. (Morgan Edwards) *At the Queen Mary Events Park, 1126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach, smokingroovesfest.com. June 15, 11 a.m. $150-$250. All ages.*

JAZZ FESTIVAL 2019'S TRIBUTE TO RAY CHARLES

The Muckenthaler is jamming to jazz every Thursday between May 23 and June 20. If you're a fan of the genre at all, you won't want to miss the final show, which pays tribute to the great Ray Charles. Combining blues with gospel styles while recording for Atlantic Records in the 1950s, Charles became an instant icon and hero. Former band members Paul Kreibich, Ricky Woodard and the Raelettes take the stage to play hits made popular by "The Genius of Soul." This performance will make you want to get up and shake your tail feather. (ME) *At the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, 1201 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton, themuck.org. June 20, 7:30 p.m. $30-$150. All ages.*

DAY OF MUSIC FULLERTON

The fifth-annual Day of Music Fullerton is bigger than ever, with more than 150 free concerts at 40 venues throughout the city. The event is happening in concert with Fête de la Musique, the World of Music day that is celebrated in more than 1,000 cities globally. Among the participating artists last year were Nelson Cade III, Skapeche Mode and Sunday Brunch, and expect more of the same in 2019, with sounds varying from jazz to ska to high-school orchestras. This year, places such as Mo's Music and the Fullerton Community Center are home to such creatively titled events as Sousapalooza, Bands Undercover and Uke Can Do It. (LG) *At various locations, Fullerton, www.thedayofmusic.com. June 21, noon-10 p.m. Free. All ages.*

GNARLYTOWN FEST

San Pedro finally gets the rough and rowdy festival it deserves. Gnarlytown rockets onto the festival scene through a ring of fire with a full day of "Bikes, Boards and Bands." The inaugural event, presented by KLOS-FM 95.5, combines action sports and punk rock, with headliners Rancid and Pennywise along with Action Bronson, the death-defying Nitro Circus and skate legend Chris Cole's Rail Jam invitational. You can also sample some of the region's best brews at a craft-beer tasting area near the water. After all, combining the coast with chaos is something San Pedro does well. (NJ) *At the LA Waterfront, Berth 46, 3011 Miner St., San Pedro; www.955klos.com/gnarlytown. June 22, 1 p.m. $49.99-$109.99. All ages.*

NOTHING FEST

With most big festivals competing over the same few dozen big headliners every year, it's refreshing to find one that focuses on local artists. Featuring Bane's World of Long Beach, James Supercave of Echo Park, Beach Bums of Los Angeles, Los Hurricanes of Santa Ana, and many more, Nothing Fest is a sort of United Nations for some of the surrounding music scenes. If you have any friends visiting from out of town this summer, consider giving them a crash course in Southern California music by taking them to this fest. And with three different stages, a bar for 21-and-older guests, and an abundance of space, the Garden Amp is the perfect venue for such an event. There will also be food and art vendors, an art installation from Chewing Foil, and live visuals by Monovision. (Steve Donofrio) *At Garden Amp, 2762 Main St., Garden Grove; gardenamp.com. July 6, 2 p.m. $20-$25. All ages.*

SUN SOAKED

Every genre deserves its day in the sun. Kaskade's annual celebration of all things EDM was expanded to two days last year, and Sun Soaked festival's return to the Long Beach shoreline this year includes a dance party headlined by Kaskade himself. You'll also find rapper Logic, a DJ set from alt-pop darling Grimes, singer Quinn XCII and a full lineup of DJs. The festival grounds will offer waterslides, sand sculptures and shade features to enhance the fan experience. But it's not all about the *untz-untz* dance party. Leading up to the festival, Sun Soaked also hosts a weeklong series of free community events, including yoga classes, pro skateboarding exhibitions, a public skatepark, beach days with sand-castle building, and more. (NJ) *At Alamitos Beach, 700 E. Shoreline, Long Beach; www.sunsoakedfest.com. July 13-14, 2 p.m. $150-$450. 18+*

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

PASÉA HOTEL & SPA
PRESENTS
Waves of
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JUNE 8 & 9, 2019
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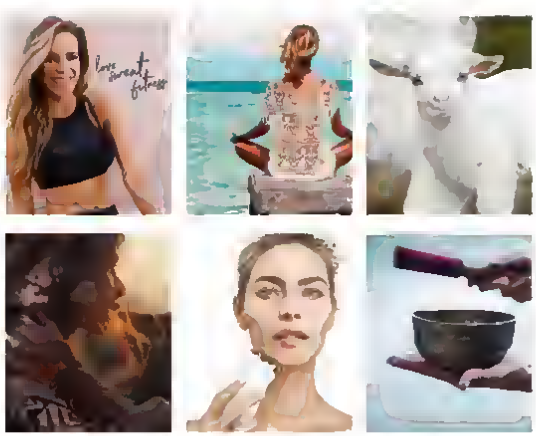

JAM-PACKED!

» FROM PAGE 9 A FRESH GUIDE TO THE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL SCENE

ROCKSTAR DISRUPT FESTIVAL
Take the seminal post-hardcore bands from the Warped Tours of the 2000s, subtract all the weird predatory shit, then put them in a nice venue with seats, and you get Disrupt Festival. Such bands as the Used, Thrice and Atreyu were the soundtrack thousands of Southern California teens listened to as they straightened their hair and wore Toms without socks until they smelled so bad they had to be destroyed. Other bands performing at this energy-drink-sponsored fest include pop-punk icons Sum-41 and Four Year Strong, as well as progressive pioneers Circa Survive. Unlike most others, Disrupt features only one stage. While this does make for a long day/night, it also means fans won't have to pick and choose which acts they want to see at the risk of missing anything. You can also expect meet-and-greets with some of the performing artists. (SD) *At FivePoint Amphitheatre, rockstardisrupt.com. July 20, 1:30 p.m. $24.99-$160. All ages.*

ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE LBC
Long Beach has many things to be proud of, including native son Snoop Dogg headlining and selling out both days of the Once Upon a Time in the LBC festival. Snoop is there to drop it like it's hot and ensure everyone gets a good contact high as he smokes through his decades of G-funk anthems. Among the other big names expected to perform are the Game, YG, and Bone Thugs N-Harmony. Since the festival originally sold out, a second day was added—and soon sold out also. Rain or shine, get ready to enjoy your love of the LBC with the whole family. (LG) *At the Queen Mary Events Park, onceuponatimeinthelbc.com. July 27, 11 a.m. $100-$250. All ages.*

ANSEL GRADY

BRAZILIAN SUMMER FEST
Composer and performer Alceu Valença headlines the 25th-annual Brazilian Summer Fest at the House of Blues. The Latin Grammy-nominated artist grew up around different parts of Brazil and embodies the spirit of Latin American music, giving a voice to both the cities and mountains. Once called the "Brazilian Bob Dylan," his experiences add a rich depth to the span of his musical abilities and range. (ME) *At the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. Aug. 3, 7 p.m. $45. All ages.*

SAD SUMMER FEST
Nobody believed 20 years ago that emo would be here to stay, nor did anyone believe it 10 years ago, but there are now music festivals focused on the genre, evidence that it's much more than an angsty teenage phase. So bring out your eyeliner and skinny jeans because Sad Summer Fest is all about letting your inner emo run wild. While some events focus more on artists of the past, Sad Summer offers a good mix of classic and newer bands, including the Maine, Mayday Parade, State Champs and Mom Jeans. The festival also partners with various nonprofits as it tours the country, so the emo kids have some positive effect on their community. (SD) *At City National Grove, 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, www.sadsummerfest.com. Aug. 3, 1:30 p.m. $39.50. All ages.*

LONG BEACH JAZZ FEST
Coming up on its 32nd year, the Long Beach Jazz Fest is one of the most established festivals on this list. Countless jazz and R&B greats have graced the event over the years, and 2019 will be no exception. The lineup includes *conguero*/band leader Poncho Sanchez, prolific guitarist Norman Brown, pianist/multi-instrumentalist Brian Culbertson and Cuban-jazz trumpet legend Arturo Sandoval, among others. (Some artists are yet to be announced, including a special guest to be divulged on June 8.) There will also be a wide selection of food and art vendors, as well as VIP upgrade options and cabana rentals. Mark your calendar for these three days in August, when Long Beach's Rainbow Lagoon Park becomes an oasis for all things jazz. (SD) *At Rainbow Lagoon Park, 300 E. Ocean Ave., Long Beach, longbeachjazzfestival.com. Aug. 9, 6 p.m., Aug. 10-11, 1 p.m. $60-$200. All ages.*

DALE FUEGO FEST
Goldenvoice gifts reggaeton lovers with a new festival: Dale Fuego Fest. The lineup fea-

tures Ozuna, Anitta, Lary Over and others who might not be household names but are the premier *papi chulos* in the realm of reggaeton. Get ready to hear the *fuego* sounds of beautiful Brazilian artist Anitta, including "Bola Rebola" and "Terromoto." The Brazilian singer/songwriter/actress/dancer has performed and created songs with such big-name singers as Becky G and Snoop Dogg. Plus, from the *Queen Mary* Events Park, fest-goers can look upon the great LBC as they twerk to their hearts' content. (LG) *At the* Queen Mary *Events Park, dalefuegofest.com. Sat., Aug. 10, noon. $125-$4,500. All ages*

REAL STREET FESTIVAL

The summer highlight for hip-hop fans takes the form of a typical radio concert and explodes it into one of the biggest events of its kind. Featuring A$AP Rocky, Future, Migos, queen diva Cardi B and many more, the massive festival transforms the Honda Center as it celebrates hip-hop's sounds, street art and lifestyle. In addition to three stages of music are a number of immersive and interactive VR experiences, art installations, live murals, an artist alley, a vendor village, the California Love Thunderdome, Big Boy's Neighborhood, and a car show. With living legends such as 2Chainz and up-and-comers including Trippie Redd and HB's own Yung Pinch, expect to achieve maximum lit-ness. (NJ) *At the Honda Center, 2695 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, realstreetfest.com. Aug. 10-11, noon. $99-$9,000. All ages.*

HAPPY SUNDAYS

Over the past two years, as local music event Happy Sundays progressively built its buzz on the streets of Long Beach, no doubt local music fans appreciated a full day of live music scattered through a garden of beloved venues and public spaces—LBC's own version of SXSW. But few probably realized the heart of it beat from a dining-room table in the house of Scott and Julia Montoya, smack-dab in the middle of the Zaferia District. This year's festival is once again spread across several venues, from Alex's Bar to the Red Leprechaun, with free shows by the likes of Prettiest Eyes, Sunny War, Neil Hamburger and a slew of SoCal bands. As a precursor to the big event, check out the open-air showcase at Retro Row on Fourth Street with the Nectarines, Winter and King Flamingo on July 21. (NJ) *At multiple locations, Long Beach; happysundayslbc.com. Aug. 25, 2 p.m. Free. Most shows are 21+*

ORANGE INTERNATIONAL STREET FAIR

Are you ready to travel the world in one weekend? You won't have to go far from home to appreciate cultures from around the globe, as the Orange International Street Fair takes over the Plaza. Now in its 48th year, this fair celebrates diversity while bringing the community closer through musical showcases, food vendors, and a plethora of activities for the whole family. Get ready to dance and eat some amazing dishes at a beloved Orange County tradition. (ME) *Off Chapman Avenue and Glassell Street, Orange; orangestreetfair.org. Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 10 a.m. Free. All ages*

OHANA FESTIVAL

Ohana may mean *family* to many people, but in this case it translates to rocking out while hanging out by the beach. This year's three-day festival returns for its fourth year with Friday headliners the Strokes offering classic songs such as "Reptilia" and "Last Nite." The weekend finishes with a band that might make you melt: the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Sponsored by quite a few big names, such as Toyota, Mike's Hard Lemonade and Hydro Flask, the Ohana Festival is known for unforgettable performances by Jack Johnson and fest co-founder Eddie Vedder. If you're 21 or older, be sure to grab your choice of craft beer or signature cocktail to close out the summer festival season with a toast! (LG) *At Doheny State Beach, www.ohanafest.com. Sept. 27, 1 p.m., Sept. 28-29, noon. $128-$1,350. All ages.*

JOHN GILHOOLEY

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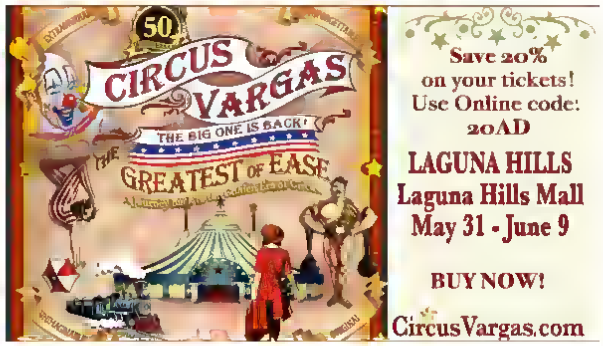

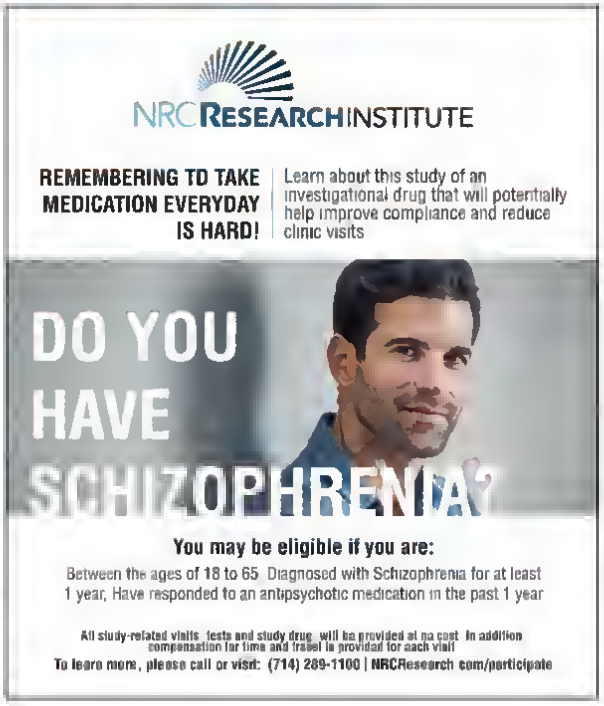
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tuesday›
SAVE ROOM FOR DESSERT

JOAN MARCUS

fri/05/31

[CONCERT]

Rock Rebels

Cherry Glazerr

If you've been anxiously awaiting the triumphant return of Cherry Glazerr, you're not alone. The indie-rock trio shepherded by the intrepid Clementine Creevy are likely to wax philosophical about any number of topics, big and small, in between songs at Chain Reaction tonight. Although espousing a young, cynical punk attitude, Creevy's songwriting has always been vibrantly political (which she goes into in great length in a wonderful KCRW interview conducted by Chery Glaser herself!), and with the current sociopolitical climate being what it is today, there's likely a lot she'll have to say about it. Get ready to cathartically rock out.

MORE ONLINE
OCWEEKLY.COM

Cherry Glazerr at Chain Reaction, 1652 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim, (714) 635-6067, allages.com. 7 p.m. $15 —AIMEE MURILLO

[ART]

All Eyes On . . .

'Patrick Angus: Voyeur'

It's wonderful to discover that an artist such as Patrick Angus existed and created art in the era he did. Back when homosexuality was an even bigger stigma than it is today, Angus painted images of young gay men merely living in the moment in private spaces using a distinct Impressionist style. Actively painting as a hobby in between jobs and in his free time, Angus idealized candid intimacy in a positive and unsensational way—although, understandably, they still created waves when they were released. The Long Beach Museum of Art hosts a major survey of his art, which offers an honest glimpse of the types of images that Angus and men like him craved to see in media.

"Patrick Angus: Voyeur" at Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 439-2119, www.lbma.org. 11 a.m. Through Sept. 8. $8–$10 —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/06/01

[TRIVIA]

WIN THOSE DUNDIES!

The Office Trivia Bar Crawl

Have you seen every episode of *The Office* countless times? Do you also like to drink booze at several different establishments in one evening? Have we got an event for you! *Office*-philes will gather in Fullerton tonight for the That's What She Said Trivia Bar Crawl, where you can drink and spout knowledge about this great comedy, which lives on through streaming channels. Use your phone to unlock the event's page and play rounds of trivia against other participants; the winning teams are awarded Dundies (naturally), but everyone who plays gets a souvenir T-shirt. Costumes are highly encouraged.

The Office That's What She Said Trivia Bar Crawl starts at Brengan's, 213 N. Harbor Blvd., Fullerton; www.triviacrawl.com/fullerton. 4 p.m. $20. 21+ —ERIN DEWITT

[CONCERT]

Sax on the Beach

Newport Beach Jazz Festival

Looking to groove to the smooth sounds of jazz? Generally, the Newport Beach Jazz Festival would be a safe haven to chill and take in a salacious sax solo, but this year will be different. Prince pals Morris Day & the Time, as well as George Benson will take you on a trip to Broadway as the fest's headliners. Heavy grooves from the likes of Jeffrey Osborne and Poncho Sanchez will also be highlights. No matter what your style of jazz is, seeing a deep bill that rivals other such fests in terms of quality makes the journey to Newport Beach on a weekend worth it. And who knows? Maybe Morris Day & the Time will bust out a familiar tune from *Purple Rain*, if you're lucky.

Newport Beach Jazz Festival at Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, 1107 Jamboree Rd., Newport Beach, (949) 729-1234, festivals.hyattconcerts.com. Noon, also Sun. $85–$135 —WYOMING REYNOLDS

sun/06/02

[THEATER]

Pillow Talk

The Pajama Game

Adler and Ross's pro-union, four-time Tony Award-winning musical classic focuses on the struggles between management and labor at a pajama factory, with a healthy dose of romance between Babe Williams, head of the workers' Grievance Committee, and plant supervisor Sid Sorokin. Filled with peppy tunes such as "Once a Year Day," "Hernando's Hideaway" and "71/2 Cents" (the pay raise workers request!), the show features one of Bob Fosse's earliest classic routines, "Steam Heat," originally performed by Carol Haney (also in the film version). This production, helmed by graduate choreographer Allison Eversoll and directed by Don Hill, promises to bring all of the grandeur and greatness of yesteryear back to the stage.

The Pajama Game at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts, 4004 Mesa Rd., Irvine, (949) 824-2787, drama.arts.uci.edu. 2 p.m. Through June 8. $11-$18. —SR DAVIES

[FOOD & DRINK]

Hot Stuff

Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off

The annual Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off offers not only chili, beer and wine-tasting opportunities, but also carnival attractions, a car show, craft booths, salsa competitions, a family fun zone, vendors, additional entertainment and contests, and, of course, the chili cook-off! Admission to the Old Town Tustin event is free, and chili-tasting tickets cost a mere $1 apiece, for the booze, a requisite 21-and-older wristband is available for $2, and tickets for individual full-size servings of beer and wine are $6 a pop. At prices like these for what's promoted as "the world's largest one-day street fair and chili cook-off," how can you go wrong?

Tustin Street Fair and Chili Cook-Off off El Camino Real and Main Street, Tustin, (714) 573-3326, wwwtustinchilicookoff. 11 a.m. Free; tasting tickets, $1-$6. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

mon/06/03

[DANCE]

Let's Boogie

Ballroom Social Dance

A great way to relieve stress and spend time with a partner is this weekly Ballroom Social Dance. No previous experience is required, although if you'd like to learn some steps, you're more than welcome to check out a class earlier in the evening; Atomic Ballroom offers a great series of ballroom dancing for beginners and intermediate-level folks. Otherwise, come out and practice your floor routine or just have fun shaking a tail feather.

Ballroom Social Dance at Atomic Ballroom, 17961 Sky Park Circle, Ste. C, Irvine, (949) 250-3332, atomicballroom.com. Classes, 6:15 p.m., dancing, 8:30 p.m. Social Dance, $5, classes, $15 each. —AIMEE MURILLO

tue/06/04

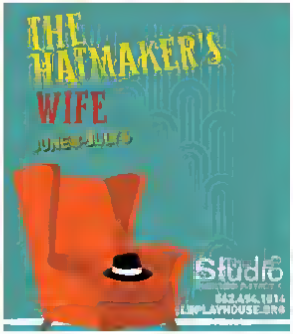
[PERFORMING ARTS]

We Want Candy

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

There have been *many* adaptations of Roald Dahl's classic story, including movies, video games, amusement parks *and* an animated series. But among all mediums, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is actually very well-suited for the stage. Combine songs from the 1974 film (that would be the great one) such as "Pure Imagination," "The Candy Man" and "I've Got a Golden Ticket" with candy-colored costuming and some new music from the team behind *Hairspray*, and it's no surprise this version became a Broadway hit. It's gonna be sweet!

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787, www.scfta.org. 7:30 p.m. Through June 9. $29-$99. —ERIN DEWITT



wed/06/05

[CONCERT]

Future Pop

Jesika von Rabbit and Litronix

Hailing from the high desert, Jesika Von Rabbit is a glamorous weirdo who delights in the creative freedom she gains from her DIY-driven music project. With a beautiful voice wrapped in a sci-fi/camp aesthetic, von Rabbit energizes listeners with her original art-pop tunes laced with electronica, funk, rock and other genres. The effervescent von Rabbit also composes music, some of which has been heard on soundtracks for *Sons of Anarchy*, *The Real World*, *Crazy Stupid Love* and more. Joining her tonight for a spectacular stage show is LA-based Litronix, a.k.a. Kevin Litrow, who provides his own futuristic pop compositions. When these two visionary talents come together, you know something wild is going to pop off.

Jesika von Rabbit with Litronix and Comeman Moore at the Wayfarer, 843 W 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039; wayfarercm.com. 8 p.m. $10. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

[DRAG]

CHERCHEZ LA FEMME

Femme Fatale Drag Show

All right, squirrel friends: Now that Pride month is under way, it's time to celebrate the festivities offered at your local watering holes. Tonight's Femme Fatale Drag Show is in honor of Laguna Beach Pride Fest, so some celebratory vibes are in order. Hosted every Wednesday night at OC Craft Gastro Brew Pub by the wonderfully wigged-out Wilhelmina Caviar, this homegrown drag performance's talent roster is kept under wraps until show time, but you can expect to see a cavalcade of queens preening across the stage and venue floor, lip syncing their hearts and souls out for the crowd. Bring plenty of dollar bills for tips, as well as the ecstatic energy required for a royal welcome.

Femme Fatale Drag Show at OC Craft Gastro Brew Pub, 237 Ocean Ave., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-3381, www.facebook.com/ocraftlagunabeach. 9:30 p.m. $5. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/06/06

[THEATER]

ODDBALLS IN

The Odd-Essy

For a hilarious, glam rock-infused take on a classic tale, take in the Troubador Theater Co.'s modern adaptation of Homer's *The Odyssey* at Casa Romantica. This unique spin brings zaniness to the original epic poem with musical numbers illuminating the journey of Odysseus and the myriad of obstacles he faces as he travels home to Ithaca from the Trojan War. With witty dialogue, quirky characters and general silliness from a roving cast of delightful weirdos, the Troubadour's *The Odd-Essy* is as humorous as it is unpredictable (and age-appropriate for the kids, too). Easily the best way to enjoy Homer's epic—and if he were alive today, we bet he'd say the same.

The Odd-Essy at Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, 415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente, (949) 498-2139; www.casaromantica.org. 7 p.m., also June 7. $20-$25. —AIMEE MURILLO

[THEATER]

Down the Rabbit Hole

Harvey

Mary Chase's Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy *Harvey* (later turned into a commercially successful film starring Jimmy Stewart) was billed in 1944 as the story of a "harmless, alcoholic, middle-aged man [who] drives his sister crazy by insisting that his friendship with an invisible white rabbit is real." Hailed by critics and audiences, Chase's comic fantasy gets new life under the Laguna Playhouse's director Andrew Barnicle and stars French Stewart (*3rd Rock from the Sun*, *Mom*) and real-life wife Vanessa Claire Stewart (Laguna Playhouse's "Keely" in *Louis and Keely, Live at the Sahara*). It's fun for the entire family, so grab the kit and kaboodle and head over for a farcical, touching, mind-bogglingly madcap comedy of "who's got the crazies"—because it might just be you!

Harvey at Laguna Playhouse, 606 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-2787, www.lagunaplayhouse.com. 7:30 p.m. Through June 16. $66-$91. —SR DAVIES

EDWIN GOEI

Empire Building

South Korean import Kyung Bok Kung serves an imperial feast in Buena Park

BY EDWIN GOEI

The new restaurant near Knott's Berry Farm is more than just a Korean barbecue; Kyung Bok Kung is one of the few places (if not the only one) in the county to offer han-jeongsik, a blowout feast originally designed for royalty in imperial Korea.

The Korean analog to Japanese *kaiseki*, han-jeongsik translates to "a complete Korean meal." But even this definition is an understatement, as han-jeongsik represents the pinnacle of Korean dining, and in Korea, there are tales of traditional banquets comprising a hundred different dishes served all at once.

At Kyung Bok Kung, you get about 15, which is plenty. The restaurant—the first U.S. location of the South Korean brand—charges $55 per person for the "special" han-jeongsik and $75 for the "premium," and there's a two-order minimum for either option. This means that before you commit, you need at least one other willing participant to do it with you.

The differences between the two tiers of han-jeongsik are slight. Right now, the cheaper dinner culminates with marinated short rib served atop a sizzling skillet. The more expensive han-jeongsik features the short ribs braised and served with abalone. But as these meals are apt to change with what's seasonally available, it can be hard to notice an uptick in quantity or quality with the "premium" experience.

From what I observed, both started the same way, with a bowl of water kimchi that jolted my mouth awake and a bowl of warm porridge that calmed it back down. Sipping the water kimchi broth was equivalent to chugging a bowl of cold pickle juice—it's the ultimate palate cleanser. After that, there was a salad featuring a hollowed-out tomato filled with bay shrimp and shredded cheese.

The next few courses were served simultaneously and without warning. This was to be expected. Korean han-jeongsik is supposed to overwhelm you with a table of food stretching to the horizon. There's no such thing as pacing here. Also, at Kyung Bok Kung, there was no expense spared on presentation, the plating on some dishes was nothing short of art.

The surgically cut sashimi was displayed atop an arrangement of stone and pebbles rivaling an Isamu Noguchi rock garden. And the tiny portions of veggies and meat in the Royal Nine Delicacies were placed inside the partitions of a bronze container so heavy it could deflect bullets. It was ironic that this build-your-own taco set-up centered on delicate buckwheat crepes that tore as if they were wet tissue.

In stark contrast, the Korean-style beef tartare was done in a minimalist style. The small, cylindrically molded strips of raw beef came on a piece of slate smeared with puréed avocado. The meat was clean and brisk, the mouthfeel the same as the sashimi I had minutes before.

And then there was the sesame soup, which arrived resembling chowder. Despite tasting chalky, it contained petals of rice cake that chewed as though they were al dente pasta. It was at this point that I began to feel the weight of all that I had eaten. I began to pace myself on the three kinds of Korean pancakes—a meaty one wrapped in sesame leaf, a lotus root and a standard kimchi-jeon. Meanwhile, the server brought some "white kimchi" bite-sized bundles of unspiced, fermented Napa cabbage that functioned as another palate cleanser.

Next, it was time for the main event: a Sterno-heated cast-iron skillet of beef short rib morsels that were glazed so completely in a sweet marinade it verged on candy. I only realized it was merely the midpoint of the meal when my server brought out a whole fried fish slathered in a sticky soy sauce that he proceeded to debone at the table. As he did so, he said there were two more courses still coming: a chewy octopus stir-fry with gochujang sauce and a boiled clam soup with cubes of tofu. And, of course, there were bowls of rice to eat them with.

Since I was already past full, I could only manage to take a bite of the octopus dish and a spoonful of the soup. I didn't touch the rice.

Sheepishly, I asked the server to confirm there was nothing else coming. "No," he replied, "but we do have a dessert tea for you."

As I sipped the tea and surveyed all the uneaten han-jeongsik food for which I didn't have room, I imagined members of the Korean imperial court having the same enviable problem 600 years ago. How appropriate that I would have this experience in a restaurant named after the main royal palace of the Joseon dynasty. But sitting there overfed and immobile in a space so elegantly austere it resembled a Medieval throne room, I didn't feel so much like Korean royalty as I did Henry VIII.

KYUNG BOK KUNG

7801 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 888-4948, kyungbokkungusa.com. Open Mon.-Sat., 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5:30-10:30 p.m.; Sun., noon-3 p.m. & 5-10 p.m. Special han-jeongsik, $55 per person, premium han-jeongsik, $75 per person. Full bar.

WHAT THE ALE

» GREG NAGEL

Sing Happy Birthday!

Cliffside along the 133, next to the Sawdust Festival, a new brewery quietly opened around a year ago. Laguna Beach Beer Co.'s second location is not only in its namesake city, but also about a mile from the iconic Main Beach Lifeguard Tower. (The company's production facility in Rancho Santa Margarita includes a tap room and eatery.) I sat down with Laguna Beach native Rob McClaire, who manages the day-to-day at the location.

OC WEEKLY: *How did you get your start in beer?*

ROB MCCLAIRE: I've had a crush on beer since college ... so much so that I was given a homebrew kit in 2010, which later led me to brewing with some old friends [Laguna Beach Beer Co. founders Brent Reynard and Mike Lombardo].

What kind of beers do you make?

Brendan Maxim is brewing up some incredible stuff. Our beers range from a blonde ale [named Second Reef] to our strawberry-milk stout [Trolley Stop], with the occasional barrel-aged release. We continue to put out the hoppier stuff, as that's what the market wants. Our styles are typically on the drier side of the spectrum and very approachable.

What has getting a new brewhouse done for your lineup?

Most important, we are making better beer. If it's been a while since you've had them, do yourself a favor and give 'em another sip. It's [also] improved efficiencies and is allowing us the opportunity to open up more wholesale business to local bars and restaurants around Orange County.

You have an event coming up on June 7. What's up with that?

We are celebrating our tap room in Laguna turning 1 year old! Festivities include a bottle release of our anticipated Bordeaux barrel-aged Saison, live music, an art show and a wine release from our friends at Purple Corduroy.

LIQUID CELEBRATIONS

at Laguna Beach Beer Co., 859 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-0805, lagunabeer.com. June 7, 5-10 p.m.

OCW ARCHIVES

Pretty and Un-Sweet

Firehouse Kitchen offers the best scones in town

ERIN DEWITT

LONG BEACH LUNCH

» ERIN DEWITT

"I wanted to honor the history of the building where my café is. It was built in 1929, and its original purpose was a firehouse," explains Hugo Du Bois De Rothschild of his dollhouse-like eatery on Broadway and Temple in Long Beach. Firehouse Kitchen opened just two months ago, but step inside, and you're surrounded by storybook-level, vintage cuteness. Every little bauble, carefully lettered and illustrated chalkboard sign, and glass cloche is arranged and placed just so. And it's all perfectly matching in red and white. Patrons can eat at the cheery red tables and patio chairs that are set up on the sidewalk or at the cozy, high-top bar behind a garden-lined storefront window.

"[Firehouse Kitchen has] an ambiance that existed many years ago that it is very hard to re-create," says Du Bois De Rothschild of the cafe's nostalgic aesthetic. "We're a unique, quaint place to come enjoy a great cup of coffee and home-baked goods."

Du Bois De Rothschild grew up in Long Beach, and after a brief stint in Los Angeles, he moved back a few years ago. As for his kitchen experience, his resumé is pretty solid. He was a pastry chef for Cafe Pinot by Patina, then worked as kitchen manager for Spago in Beverly Hills, sharing his office with Wolfgang Puck. His company catered the Emmy Awards and *American Idol*, plus private parties for many celebrities. Most recently, Du Bois De Rothschild was a pastry chef for Marriott.

"It took about a year for everything," Du Bois De Rothschild recounts of the cafe's construction process. "The only thing we kept were the original stenciled floors," which have a lace-printed pattern.

While a full menu is in the works, Firehouse Kitchen currently offers a generous selection of baked goods (all made in-house) and coffee service. "We have exceptional coffee; I have created just the right balance in taste. Our specialty drink would be the lavender latte," notes Du Bois De Rothschild. "I recommend getting it iced to really bring out the flavor."

Served beautifully layered for optimal 'gramability, the latte is a combination of strong brewed coffee, oat milk (regular dairy milk is also available) and a homemade deep-purple lavender syrup. Not the least bit sweet, nor perfume-y like some lavender creations can be, this is instead a cool, herbal rendition of the classic espresso-and-milk beverage.

Another Firehouse specialty is the scrumptious scones, specifically the lemon-blueberry option. Drizzled in a pale, sugary glaze, these completely addictive treats are extra buttery and have a perfect density: substantial but not heavy. Lemon zest adds brightness and a subtle tang.

As beautiful as everything looks—from the one-bite beignets filled with an assortment of jammy or fudgy fillings to the chocolate croissants to the frosting-capped carrot cake—the items here are wonderfully undersweetened. Even the chocolate-raspberry ganache cake, which is topped with smooth, almost-black ganache and dotted with fresh raspberries, is deliciously moist and loaded with bitter dark chocolate.

Savory items include bagels, quiches, and, most notably, the mushroom-and-turkey-sausage tart, for which a flaky pastry crust is piled high with sliced mushrooms and sausage crumbles. Du Bois De Rothschild mentions this one sells fast and is hard to keep stocked.

The majority of the new restaurants popping up around town are modern, trendy concepts, so it's nice to see something old-timey and whimsical join the neighborhood. "We wanted to bring something classy, delicious and inspiring to others," says Du Bois De Rothschild. "A place where friends can meet and have lovely conversations over a nice cup of coffee." And quite possibly the best scones in town.

FIREHOUSE KITCHEN
2742 E. Broadway, Long Beach, (562) 588-9468.

GREG NAGEL

Cultivating Cool

Savor Cultivation Kitchen's organic/non-GMO menu

A greenhouse isn't typically a place one should try to eat, as they're generally hot, humid and full of plant-based organisms rooted in various earthy soils. But Anaheim has a new eatery occupying the glass house inside Farmers Park, where instead of growing plants, Dale LaFlam is cultivating a cool spot to grab a bite and some drinks.

Cultivation Kitchen recently opened with a fully organic/non-GMO menu of piled-high salads, sandwiches and a bevy of sides that very much resemble something one might find in a Newport Beach bistro. "At first, I wanted to start with a smoothie bar-meets-coffee bar type of concept, and it kept growing from there," says founder LaFlam. As his first restaurant concept grew over the past 18 months, he added wine, beer and a full menu.

The food hall, which sits next door, has been home to many chef-driven starter projects, but Cultivation seems more like a glass-slipper-fitting-Cinderella kind of story. "I was looking for a developer to partner with originally—until I saw the space, and it couldn't have been more perfect," LaFlam says.

The high-vaulted ceilings and cozy plant vibe fits organically into the bright, airy space, and the outdoor area feels as comfortable as a friend's back yard. And the glass windows allow plenty of light to spill in from all angles. "Then there are fire pits and games," LaFlam notes as he lights the gas flames while the late-spring sun goes down. The green Adirondack chairs are a great spot for grabbing a local beer; all pint and tall-boy cans are from local breweries, plus there are four Beachwood Brewing taps, organic wines, kombucha, teas and, of course, Cultivation Kitchen's house-brand coffee, perfect for sipping next to a fire or while you're tossing bocce ball or cornhole.

If it's your first time there, picking where to start might be difficult. Executive chef Joshua Korn's menu runs with bowls, salads, sandwiches, mix-and-match dinner spreads, breakfasts, smoothies and shareable plates, then riffs with several offerings that are truly fresh twists.

I started with the hummus, which is served Israeli-style with a few crisps and lightly baked chickpeas swimming in the creamy Levantine dip. Cilantro, pomegranate, Za'atar spice and extra-virgin olive oil round out the plate.

Salads and healthy plates can be built around a protein, whether it be hippie-dusted tofu that's wedged and grilled; the juicy, organic chicken; chimichurri-rubbed, grass-fed beef; or flaky, sustainable salmon.

Then there are the sides—a total of eight choices, any of which can quell the pickiest of eaters. The Okinawa sweet potatoes are farm-fresh, as are the ultra-healthy ashwagandha and shaved Brussels. There's also some really bright, rainbowy carrots, each drizzled in layers of perfectly matched sauces such as an Aleppo yogurt made in-house, then given added texture from shaved nuts.

I still need to visit for breakfast; they had me hooked at the words *blood orange ricotta pancakes*.

EAT & DRINK THIS NOW

» GREG NAGEL

CULTIVATION KITCHEN
350 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, (714) 603-7076, cultivationkitchen.com

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NEW REPUBLIC PICTURES

Still Standing

Elton John's life story is told in the stunning musical biopic *Rocketman*

BY AIMEE MURILLO

The storied life and career of Sir Elton John has long deserved its own movie, and after 20 years of development by John as executive producer, *Rocketman* launches into flight. Directed by Dexter Fletcher, the film has been drawing comparisons to another recent rock-star biopic (which was also directed by Fletcher, after filling in last minute for Bryan Singer's departure), but as John was markedly different from *Bohemian Rhapsody*'s late protagonist, Freddie Mercury, *Rocketman* is light years different.

To aptly depict a man who immersed himself in spectacle and extravagance, *Rocketman* is told through a bold and fantastical musical production, with Elton (Taron Egerton) and various other characters who played roles in his life breaking into famous works by the singer/songwriter, from early singles such as "Crocodile Rock," "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting" and "Your Song" to later-career hits such as "I Want Love." The good news is this musical treatment works extremely well, without being too indulgent (see Julie Taymor's 2007 Beatles epic, *Across The Universe*—my apologies to its fans!)

However, the film still seems restrained in certain respects, thanks to the formulaic nature of the biopic, and the depiction of his homosexuality feels somewhat guarded (except for a passionate love scene, which is supposedly the first gay love scene in a mainstream film). But for a mainstream audience with middling knowledge of Elton's life, *Rocketman* should still serve as a fun, digestible ride through his catalog and life, from its dizzying highs to its tragic lows.

The film opens with Elton stomping confidently down a long hallway in a red, bedazzled, winged devil costume to—we assume—a stage to knock out another live performance, but instead, he heads into a group rehab meeting. There, he lists his demons: alcohol abuse, drug addiction, sex addiction, bulimia and shopping addiction. (At various points throughout the film, we revert back to this group-therapy setting to hear Elton discuss his life, and we see him gradually strip away his costume as he realizes what drives his addictions in the first place.)

Suddenly, Elton's 5-year-old self, Reginald Dwight, appears to him, and the child leads the first musical number, "The Bitch Is Back," transitioning us into a flashback of his childhood in England, where his vaguely uninterested mother (Bryce Dallas Howard) and his loving grandmother (Gemma Jones) respectively ignore and nurture his remarkable talent to play the piano by ear. His distant and cold father, Stanley (Steven Mackintosh), brushes away young Reggie's gentle requests for hugs, and the family together break into a soft rendition of "I Want Love."

It's this craving for love and affection that would drive much of Elton's clamoring for validation from others, but his exceptional musical talents carry him through his youth—as depicted in the stellar musical number that transitions teenage Reggie into adulthood. His dreams to be a rock-&-roller are stoked early on, as he becomes a session player for Motown groups touring through England. This is where he has his first homosexual dalliance with a young backup singer.

The film picks up momentum when he meets his creative partner, Bernie Taupin (Jamie Bell). The two hit it off instantly and together write Elton's most famous songs, landing him a record contract and an American tour. We're then treated to his legendary show at the Troubadour in Los Angeles (cue the palm-tree montage), where his performance uplifts himself and everyone in the audience, propelling him to stardom—and to meeting his future business manager and lover, John Reid (Richard Madden). Believing himself to have found the love he's always wanted, Elton succumbs to Reid's cutthroat business decisions and influence, spending money on extravagant purchases and hedonistic whims. From there, it's one tragic downward spiral to another, fed by booze, eating disorders and even an ill-fated marriage to recording engineer Renate Blauel (Celinde Schoenmaker).

As Elton, Egerton is phenomenal. After gaining fame in the *Kingsman* action-comedy franchise, the handsome English lad could possibly be taken even more seriously after this role, as he sheds all vanity to play the paunchy, balding musician. Egerton's own voice is used, and the full spectrum of his skills and commitment help him to carry this large-scale monster of a film.

Biopic formula be damned, the musical and dance numbers are brilliant, the drama is gripping, and the spectacular attention to Elton's outrageous costumes is delightful. But what *Rocketman* really brings home for me is a newfound appreciation for Elton John and his music. The nuance of the titular song is explored closely when it soundtracks his attempted suicide and subsequent dive back into performing, where we see his otherworldly stage persona belie a deeply troubled, dejected man. *Rocketman* showcases the human inside all those sequins and feathers.

AMURILLO@OCWEEKLY.COM

ROCKETMAN

was directed by Dexter Fletcher; written by Lee Hall, and stars Taron Egerton, Jamie Bell and Richard Madden.

Courage to Change People's Hearts

BY MATT COKER

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The Third Wife. A 14-year old (Nguyen Phuong Tra My) becomes the third wife of a wealthy landowner (Long Le Vu) in 19th-century rural Vietnam. She seeks to change her status the only way possible by giving birth to a male child. *Regency Westminster, (714) 893-4222. Thurs., May 30, 1:50, 4:25, 7 & 9:40 p.m. $8.50-$10.50.*

***Watchmen:* Director's Cut.** In a 1985 America, where costumed superheroes are part of everyday life, masked vigilante Rorschach (Jackie Earle Haley) uncovers a plot to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes. You are to attend dressed as your favorite character and enjoy themed drinks, then stick around after the film for a Q&A with screenwriter David Hayter. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., May 30. 7:30 p.m. $15.*

The Icarus Line Must Die. Joe Cardamone, the front man of the actual post-hardcore band the Icarus Line, essentially plays himself gigging, grappling with potential label deals, and balancing his private life with his ambition. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., May 30. 8 & 10 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Okko's Inn. Madhouse anime studio and director Kitaro Kosaka present the tale of orphaned Okko, who helps her grandmother run a Japanese countryside inn. Okko discovers the inn is inhabited by ghosts, who are much friendlier than many mortal guests. This run includes presentations in Japanese with English subtitles and dubbed in English. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Subtitled: Fri., Sun., Tues. & Thurs., June 6, dubbed: Sat., Mon. & Wed. Show times: 2:30, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Given all the imitators that followed, you'd be forgiven for forgetting or being unaware of how unique this flick, inspired by the Ed Gein murders, was in 1974. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7. $10.50.*

30 Years After Tiananmen: Tank Man and the Struggle for Democracy in China. A short film on the act of defiance that shook the world screens, followed by a panel. *Chapman University; www.chapman.edu. Fri., 5:30 p.m. Free.*

Audition. The widowed father of Aoyama (Ryo Ishibashi) re-enters the dating scene with the help of a film producer friend (Jun Kunimura). Actress auditions for a part that does not exist uncover a gorgeous but withdrawn woman (Eihi Shiina) with whom Aoyama begins a relationship—only to discover there is disturbingly more to her than it seems. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.-Sat., 10 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Live shadow cast troupe Midnight Insanity performs. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Sat., 11:55 p.m. $9-$12.*

Saving Private Ryan. Steven Spielberg's 1998 war epic is set during World War II's Normandy invasion. An Army Rangers captain (Tom Hanks) leads his squad in the search for a paratrooper (Matt Damon), who is the last-surviving brother of four servicemen. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sun. & Wed., 3 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Zotfest. The student-run campus-wide public competition and screening event celebrates 20 years of showcasing cinematic works by UC Irvine students. *Irvine Barclay Theatre, (949) 824-5011. Mon., 6 p.m. Free.*

National Theatre Live. *The Audience.* To mark National Theatre Live's 10th anniversary, the London company and Fathom Events beam into U.S. theaters a rebroadcast of a live 2013 stage production of *The Audience*. Moments that shaped Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) are related via her private "audiences" with prime ministers—from Winston Churchill to David Cameron. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Mon., 7 p.m. $18.*

***Pavarotti* Premiere Screening Event.** Producer Brian Grazer and director Ron Howard pivot from *The Beatles: Eight Days a Week* to this new documentary on the legendary opera singer. Enjoy intimate interviews, historic performances, never-before-seen footage and a special introduction by Opie himself. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Tues., 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Spirited Away. Hayao Miyazaki's Oscar-winning anime fantasy has a girl's mom and dad undergoing a mysterious transformation before their daughter is whisked into a world of fantastic spirits, shape-shifting dragons and a wicked witch. Vanguard University? *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

Green Book. FPL Arthouse presents Peter Farrelly's 2018 Oscar-winning drama that has a working-class Italian-American bouncer (Viggo Mortensen) driving an African American classical pianist (Mahershala Ali) on a tour of venues through the American South of the 1960s. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Wed., 6 p.m. Free.*

Bauhaus Spirit: 100 Years of Bauhaus. Go inside the philosophy that helped to develop the 1919 Bauhaus architecture school, which promoted a peaceful society of which everyone could be a part. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Wed., 7 p.m. $8-$15.*

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. The fourth franchise flick traces the events leading up to the stoned "Triwizard Tournament," pitting Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry against two rival academies. There's one catch: Competitors must be at least 17 years of age, which makes 14-year old Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) ineligible. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

Herstory. Min Kyu-dong's 2018 documentary is about the long legal battle waged by 10 plaintiffs who suffered as "comfort women" during World War II. Kyu-dong participates in an audience Q&A as part of this Center for Critical Korean Studies presentation. *UC Irvine, (949) 824-6117. Thurs., June 6, 6 p.m. Free.*

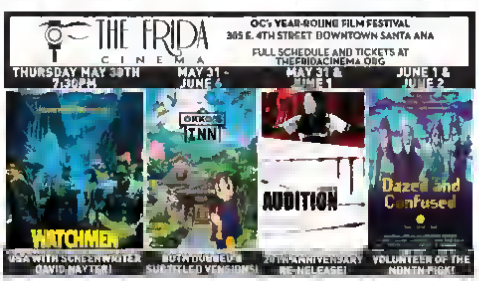
The Night of the Shooting Stars. Italian Movie Night presents Paolo and Vittorio Taviani's 1982 war rom-dram set on the Night of San Lorenzo of 1944. Residents flee because of rumors the Nazis plan to blow up the small Italian town and that the Americans are coming to liberate them. *Regency San Juan Capistrano, (949) 661-3456. Thurs., June 6, 7 p.m. $10.*

Rifftrax Live: *Star Raiders.* Mike, Kevin and Bill riff along live to this 2017 sci-fi un-classic filled with hokey special effects. In 2762, Captain Saber Raine (Casper Van Dien) and his elite squad try to save an unnamed planet's prince and princess from an evil overlord whose head is filled with cherry Jell-O. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., June 6, 7:30 p.m. $12.50.*

The Walkers. Orange County-based filmmaker and Orange Coast College graduate Lisset Tania Mendoza premieres her new horror/comedy short about the college life of a group of misfit witches. The trio navigate keggers and demonic possession. Vanguard University? *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 6, 8 p.m. $7.*

Dji Film Festival. Enjoy the best student work from the UC Irvine Digital Filmmaking program. *UCI, (949) 824-3514. Thurs., June 6, 8:30 p.m. Free.*

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM



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Surfer Kanoa Igarashi, Huntington Beach
Photo credit: Chad Wells

Can't Go Home Again

Grand Central Art Center spotlights the personal and political in two shows

BY DAVE BARTON

Red wedges aren't exactly ruby slippers, but the idea that there's no place like home informs Teresita de la Torre's humble installation "antes muerta que sencilla" at Grand Central Art Center (GCAC).

Curated by GCAC director John Spiak, the show is a series of drawings in Spanish and English, an abstract border marked with three points of entry, some unidentified artifacts, and a set of photographs that share the story of the artist's mother's immigration from Mexico. As de la Torre learned more details, she was horrified that her mother wore a pair of red high-heeled wedge shoes in her crossing, hoping to be attractive for de la Torre's father, who was waiting in America; the shoes were destroyed by the difficulties of the journey.

Obsessed, the artist made herself a similar pair of the shoes by hand, memorializing her mother's trip. Her documented journey was less strenuous and dangerous than her mother's—and perfectly legal. Designed from de la Torre's mother's memories, the paper shoes didn't last long, either: the seams busted, the straps scotch-taped. Bright red, they have the sassy quality of something a drag queen might make.

A stronger pair, made by a fellow immigrant, helped the artist perform two more crossings, but it's not difficult to imagine the vast amount of shoe leather destroyed over the years by other migrants … or left behind in the desert.

The personal and political merge in another GCAC exhibition. "NOW MORE THAN EVER" is a sampling of artwork by seven Cal State Fullerton MFA and BFA students, only a small portion of which has the same power as de la Torre's installation. The best work in guest curator Kelly Lindner's lopsided show can be seen from the doorway of the gallery, with the less-than-stellar work shunted into a rear corner.

At the front, Jose Flores Nava's small sculptures work as precise symbols of immigration: porcelain pots jammed into the middle of small stone walls, then plastered into place, smooth and beautiful (and brown), vastly different than their bland gray surroundings. The containers hold up the sloppily made wall, artfully trapped into being a cornerstone. Hadley Mattwig's caustic take on Southern women in her mixed media *Can Ya'll?!?* is a faux living room, featuring a couch and a television set. Stark and minimalist, it's decorated with manipulated, off-kilter photographs of animalistic, wolf-headed children, the artist makes two appearances in her own work, as a one-dimensional, black-and-white image conforming to the contours of the couch, watching herself reading on the TV. Her head moves slowly onscreen as she reads a fake book, *How To: A Southern Belle*, its dust jacket peppered with quotes about female superheroes, suggesting a fanciful mixture of brainwashing and exaggerated self-importance. Yara Almourad's three large graphite drawings of Syrian refugees—an artist who paints decorations on weapons of war, a faceless nurse caring for a patient, and a cellist with his dog—are surrounded by ephemera (photos, news stories, personal messages). The artist is asking us to slow down and take the time to get to know each of her subjects, their love for art, their animals and the well-being of others puts a human face on people that so often become just another headline.

TERESITA DE LA TORRE/COURTESY OF GRAND CENTRAL ART CENTER

Dylan Flah's self-portrait banners hang outside the gallery. Wearing various male-specific sports clothes and areouterments, complicated by a skirt and make-up, the portraits check the rudimentary gender boxes, but you only need to see one and the point's made. More than that is just redundant. Pamela Rush's two projected photos appear to also be making statements about gender (two faces superimposed so they blur into one) and the tawdriness of sexual love (a cheesy, heart-shaped ashtray full of cigarette butts), but that may be reading too much into them.

Vying for ugliest work in the show are Desmond Jervis and Janan Abedelmuti, whose works are buried in the back. According to the press release, Jervis' conceptual art is aiming to subvert "traditional ceramic narrative" and "racial representation" with his coagulated blob of fired clay on a pedestal and dull, pixilated film loop, both of which come off as somebody taking a piss. Abedelmuti's stitched words in paper are intriguing, offering a handful of blocky and mysterious *Charlotte's Web*-like messages, but that momentum is cut short with her lackluster assemblage paintings. The canvases—a hole cut out, maybe a bit of paint, some pencil scribbles, a piece of lace or what resembles waxed strips of pubic hair—suggest that Lindner may have done the artist more service by making her aware that not *everything* is art. Her haphazardly sewn-together, crocheted blanket is less unattractive than the canvases, but that isn't saying much. Neither her work nor Jervis' qualify as empassioned calls to action, just calls to avert your eyes and keep moving.

"TERESITA DE LA TORRE: ANTES MUERTA QUE SENCILLA" AND "NOW MORE THAN EVER: CSUF MFA/BFA" at Grand Central Art Center, 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (714) 567-7233; www.grandcentralartcenter.com. Open Tues.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. "antes muerta que sencilla," through July 14, "NOW MORE THAN EVER," through Aug. 16. Free.

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

May 31-June 6

"BOB MIZER: VINTAGE PHYSIQUE" Shown is a retrospective of the photographer's work capturing male bodybuilders around Southern California beaches. Open Thurs., 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri.-Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Sept. 8. $8-$10. Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. (562) 439-2119; www.lbma.org.

"TWO-CUBED" Ceramic sculptor Beverly Janeke and painter David Minhael Lee apply the laws of geometry to their art. Open Thurs.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Through June 29. Free. Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, 117 N. Sycamore St., Santa Ana. (714) 667-1517; www.occca.org.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Adapted for the stage from Disney's animated film, this musical focuses on an educated young woman's effect on a lonely, cursed prince. Tues.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m., Fri., 8 p.m., Sat., 2 & 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through June 23. $27-$89. La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, 14900 La Mirada Blvd., La Mirada, (562) 944-9801; www.lamiradatheatre.com.

THE ADDAMS FAMILY—A MUSICAL COMEDY In this production based on Charles Addams' Gothic cartoons, hilarity ensues when Wednesday falls for a normal young man and invites him to meet her family. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through June 9. $41-$51. Camino Real Playhouse, 31776 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 489-9082; caminorealplayhouse.org.

STUDIO ARTS FESTIVAL The juried show features more than 100 California-based artists; plus, there are art demos, live music and an ice cream social. Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Irvine Fine Arts Center, 14321 Yale Ave., Irvine. (949) 724-6880; irvinefinearts.org.

FITEXPO ANAHEIM Fitness enthusiasts converge to learn about the newest wellness products and services, view rocking demos, take exercise classes and meet celebrity trainers. Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. $25-$40. Anaheim Convention Center, 800 W. Katella Ave., Anaheim; thefitexpo.com.

THE VELVETEEN RABBIT South Coast Repertory's Theatre for Young Audiences program brings the classic tale of a stuffed animal brought to life by love and magic. Sat., 11 a.m., 2 & 4:30 p.m., Sun., 2 & 4:30 p.m. June 7, 7 p.m. Through June 9. $23-$28. South Coast Repertory, 650 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-5555; www.scr.org.

BUGS & BUTTERFLIES A family-friendly event at which guests can learn all about the insects that inhabit the park. Among the activities offered are a rock climbing wall, a butterfly garden and games. Sun., 10 a.m. Free. Riley Wilderness Park, 30952 Oso Pkwy., Coto de Caza. (949) 923-2265; www.ocparks.com/parks/thomas.

PRIDE ISSUE

PRIDE WEEK 6/15-6/23

PUBLISHES 6/13/19

OC WEEKLY

ORANGE COUNTY'S LEADING SOURCE OF
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COURTESY OF GREG ANTISTA AND THE LONELY STREETS

Carrying the Torch

Greg Antista and the Lonely Streets are rooted in OC punk

BY NATE JACKSON

As a singer/songwriter, Greg Antista has gotten accustomed to wearing his heart on his sleeve—though being a longtime OC punk rocker means it's been scuffed up and stabbed a few times. It's the kind of trauma that, for better or worse, makes him a good troubadour. In the case of his latest project, Greg Antista and the Lonely Streets, turning sorrow into songs that can move crowds and also connect them to his local roots is part of what he loves most about his current band.

"That's the best way to represent where I'm from," Antista says. "We're lucky enough to live in Orange County, and I was lucky to be here at the pivotal point when punk rock exploded. Social Distortion, Agent Orange and the Adolescents all started up at my high school, and I got to witness that." One of the key figures in that early punk-rock scene was the late Steve Soto, one of Antista's best friends since he was a teen and later a band mate in Joyride.

The night before Soto's passing last June after a long battle with health-related issues, Antista was working with him on a batch of Soto's solo songs, which he had planned to release. Their night of laughing and strumming would be the last they would spend together.

Months later, the heartbreak of losing his best friend inspired Antista to not only get back into playing music again, but to also start performing live at local shows and festivals. "I hadn't done the singer/songwriter thing since Joyride, and a lot of things happened in between, but this is my first attempt to come back and write a record and form a band," Antista says.

One of the byproducts of playing with so many bands in the OC punk scene for so long is Antista's ability to hear the members he wanted in his head for the songs before they ever played a note. Right away he knew who to call to fill out his roster—lead guitar wiz Jessica Kaczmarek of Bus-stop Hurricanes and Russell Scott & the Red Hots, versatile and powerful bassist Warren Renfrow of the Cadillac Tramps and Manic Hispanic, and Jorge E. Disguster of Mr. Miranga and Mink Daggers. Each of them brings an accomplished style and wisdom to the table, allowing Antista to immediately begin bringing his mix of roots music, Ramones and old-school OC punk to life.

"We put everything on hold for a month after Steve died, [and then] we said, 'Fuck that. We're gonna go in and do a record because there's no time to waste,'" Antista says.

With all of the members who created a name for themselves in their respective former bands in a much different place in their lives than those in the average brand-new group, the excitement conjured up by bringing the sound forged during the glory days of clubs such as the Doll Hut in Anaheim in the '90s is part of what made them want to move full steam ahead.

"It's a breath of fresh air that people still care about something that we've all been doing individually for so long but [is] coming together now finally," Disguster says. "I have a family, and I'm juggling three different bands and my 9 to 5. I'm humbled that I'm still able to have my cake and eat it, too—everything balances out. I'm lucky because so many of our friends aren't able to do it anymore."

Ahead of their debut album, *Shake, Stomp and Stumble*, recorded with Paul Miner at Buzzbomb Studios in Orange, the band released their single and video for "Goodnight Ramona," a Social D-inspired cowpunk tune with the bluster and soul of OC roots musicians such as Big Sandy.

"I never knew Big Sandy existed until I started working at the Doll Hut back in the '90s, and then I started to go see him and the Blasters and all that local roots music, and this is all a conglomeration of that on this record," Antista says. "So I hope it represents Orange County."

Forged out of the pain of a recent breakup, most of the songs—including "Finally Say Goodbye" and "Shiver"—carry a tinge of angst and reckless abandon that suits Antista's voice, a sturdy punk-inspired howl that evokes the true emotion of an everyday man battling heartbreak. Even in the darkness of his lowest points, he still pays tribute to the soul of rock & roll, which, in his case, is Soto. The album ends with the track "Forever," one of Soto's most beloved original songs.

Since they got their start earlier this year, Greg Antista and the Lonely Streets have been bringing their rollicking rock & roll show to stages around OC, keeping the torch burning for high-octane, punk-inspired roots rock.

"I'm happy to be a part of that lineage, and I wanna do it well and represent it honestly," Antista says. "I make music that I enjoy, and I hope people can relate to it. If nothing else, it's from the heart."

NJACKSON@OCWEEKLY.COM

GREG ANTISTA AND THE LONELY STREETS
perform with the Rocketz and Enemy Proof at Maui Sugar Mill Saloon, 18389 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, (818) 344-0034. Fri., 9 p.m. Free. 21+

GENRE-DEFIERS

COURTESY EMÆL/BY BRYAN TIPTON

Parliament Jazzadelic

EMÆL breaks open with the luxurious EP *Introspectre*

BY CHRISTINE TERRISSEE

Over Coronas and limes, a conversation with the band EMÆL veers from the finer points of cellist Yo-Yo Ma's persona to the prolific output of Dr. Dre and composer John Williams. Heady stuff from a group of kids who all live within a few minutes of one another in Placentia.

Although things can rapidly change, as they've been known to add and drop members as needed, the current lineup is composed of Emmanuel "Eman" Ventura-Cruess (lead vocalist and cellist), Alyssa Cantal (vocalist), Michael Womack (guitarist and vocalist), Joris Hoogsteder (drummer) and Daniel Kristoff (keyboardist). Ventura-Cruess performs the bulk of the songwriting but thrives on working with others. "There is never a reason not to collaborate," he says.

Collaborations aside, the tight relationships between the mostly OC natives (Hoogsteder came to them by way of Holland) remains a core factor in their ability to tighten their focus. This is especially seen on their latest release, *Introspectre*, set to drop Friday.

Introspectre is EMÆL's second after last year's full-length *Glasswork* and can be seen as a follow-up, with tracks that didn't quite fit on the previous album. "*Glasswork* was referring to our bodies and very introspective," explains Ventura-Cruess. "Looking inward, this one kind of continues with that idea."

Lush with haunting lyrics, the EP has a more expansive feel than its running time of just longer than 10 minutes. The gorgeous "Le Lac" has Ventura-Cruess' hushed vocals calling to mind Brandon Boyd on the 2001 Incubus release *Morning View*. Though Ventura-Cruess' main instrument is the cello, he treats it as a tool: strapped around him as if it were a guitar and plucked and played as though it were a bass.

The strongest track, "Diotima," presents a reflective bridge, while "Steam in the Faucet" offers a more pulsating vibe with Cantal featured on the lead chorus. "Yeah, we're actually siblings," Ventura-Cruess jokes about his relationship with Cantal, whom he met in elementary school. Having worked together for so long, their voices blend comfortably, complementing and contrasting as needed.

Introspectre ends in kind of a sweet exorcism after taking a few harder edge detours no doubt influenced by Hoogsteder, known for his composition work. Ventura-Cruess met him six or seven years ago, when both were in Cal State Fullerton's music program. "He was just in there playing on a Moog synthesizer one day," Ventura-Cruess recalls, "and I was just like, 'I've got to get to know this guy'"

In the past three to four years, they've built a growing fan base with their creative fusion of genres: jazz, hip-hop, electronica, orchestral—you name it.

Despite all the genre-defying eclecticism, *Introspectre* marks a decidedly centered turn. "After this, we're definitely headed in a slightly more refined, boiled-down direction," Ventura-Cruess explains. "Songs that are a little more simple and more straightforward. . . To me, this EP is like the final, artsy hurrah."

The plan is to dish out more singles, perhaps on a monthly basis, eventually leading to a completed album. Dropping more frequently opens up a dialogue with their fan base, many of whom message the band with works of art inspired by songs, whether it be choreography or a flute solo.

EMÆL's party is just getting started.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

ERIC VOAKE

Friday

BUVET, ?????, PASTE, FLYING MACHINE 7 p.m., $10, all ages. Garden Amp 12762 Main St., Gardee Grove (949) 415-4544 gardenamp.com.

THE BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR, SWIMM, KING SHELTER 9 p.m., $12, all ages The Constellation Room 3503 S. Harbor Blvd. Santa Ana (714) 957-0600 www.observatoryoc.com

CHERRY GLAZERR 7 p.m., $15 all ages. Chain Reaction 1652 Lincoln Ave., Anaheim (714) 635-6067 www.allages.com.

THE DICRIES 8 p.m., $10, 21+ La Santa 220 E. Third St. Santa Ana (657) 231-6005 www.lasantaac.com

RADKEY, BLIND HOUSE, MOSTLY SUNNY, DEATH VALLEY TRIO 8 p.m. $12, 21+ Alex's Bar 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

SEGA GENECIDE 8 p.m. $8 21+ The Wayfarer, 843 W 19th St. Costa Mesa (949) 764-0039 www.wayfarercm.com

Saturday

BIG FUN, THICK, MOM AND THE MAIL MAN 8 p.m., $5, 21+ The Wayfarer, 843 W 19th St., Costa Mesa (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

EVIDENCE, CRIMEAPPLE 9 p.m. $30 21+ La Santa 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana, (657) 231-6005 www.lasantaac.com

FAT NICK, SHAKEWELL 8 p.m., $20-$75, all ages. The Observatory 3503 S Harbor Blvd, Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600 www.observatoryoc.com

ONE DRAW, MOTHER PARISA +THE BAND OF HEATHENS, THE QUOTE GAME, JAKOB NOWELL 8 p.m., $5 21+ Alex's Bar 2913 E. Anaheim St. Long Beach (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

SONREAL 9 p.m., $17-$80 all ages. The Constellation Room 3503 S Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com

Sunday

DEZZY HOLLOW, NOVACANE, JOHN GIVEZ 9 p.m., $15, 21+ La Santa 220 E Third St., Santa Ana, (657) 231-6005; www.lasantaac.com

THE LESSER THANS; A BROKEN LINE; GOOD ODG, AWFUL NORMALS 8 p.m.-$5 21+ Alex's Bar 2913 E. Anaheim St. Long Beach, (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com.

$NOT, DC THE DON, SAD FROSTY 9 p.m., $15, all ages. The Constellation Room 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

THE SWAP 11 a.m. $2, all ages Garden Amp, 12762 Main St., Gardee Grove, (949) 415-4544 gardenamp.com.

Monday

JAKE TITTLE, LIGHT WIDENING CARTALK, DANIEL BROUNS 7:30 p.m. free 21+ The Wayfarer 843 W 19th St. Costa Mesa (949) 764-0039 www.wayfarercm.com.

Tuesday

JORDANT 8 p.m. $20, 21+ The Slidebar Rock N-Roll Kitchen 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton (714) 871-7469; www.slidebarfullerton.com.

Wednesday

ACID TONGUE, THE PANTONES, CHEAP TISSUE 9 p.m. $10 all ages The Constellation Room 3503 S. Harbor Blvd. Santa Ana (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

JESIKA VON RARRIT, LITRONIX, COLEMAN MOORE 8 p.m., $10 21+ The Wayfarer, 843 W 19th St., Costa Mesa (949) 764-0039; www.wayfarercm.com.

KARI FAUX, DJ OSH KOSH 9 p.m., $13 21+ La Santa 220 E. Third St. Santa Ana (657) 231-6005, www.lasantaac.com

Thursday, June 6

BLESSED BAND APART, TERMINAL A, SHIT GIVER 9 p.m., $10 21+ Alex's Bar 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach (562) 434-8292 www.alexsbar.com

INNER WAVE, EYEDRESS 8 p.m. $17 all ages The Observatory 3503 S Harbor Blvd Santa Ana (714) 957-0600 www.observatoryoc.com

LANITARIANS, THESE PILGRIMS, THE CABANA BROTHERS, AVA SKAKIR WITH DAN KAPLAN 8 p.m., $5 21+ The Wayfarer, 843 W 19th St., Costa Mesa (949) 764-0039 www.wayfarercm.com

LEE FIELDS & THE EXPRESSIONS 8 p.m., $22.50 21+ La Santa 220 E. Third St. Santa Ana, (657) 231-6005 www.lasantaac.com

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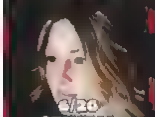

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6/21	CASH'D OUT
6/22	Y&T
6/23	AN EVENING WITH JONN NIATT
6/28	KOZMIC BLUES (JANIS JOPLIN TRIBUTE)
6/29	THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BOARD (RAT PACK TRIBUTE)
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7/13	LOS LONELY BOYS
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8/9	SUBLIME
8/15	THE PLATTERS w/ special guest THE DRIFTERS
8/18	THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
8/21	JUSTIN HAYWARD
8/29	SAVOY BROWN
8/30	CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
8/31	WILD CHILD (THE DOORS TRIBUTE)
9/8	SINBAD

UPCOMING SHOWS

9/8	GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA	10/6	DON MCLEAN
9/12	ADRIAN BELEW	10/11	DOKKEN
9/14	LED ZEPAGAIN (LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE)	10/13	JUDY COLLINS
9/15	SCOTT STAPP OF CREED	10/24	TAB BENOIT
9/20	NERMAN'S NERMITS	11/1	DINGO BOINGO FORMER MEMBERS
9/21	NERMAN'S NERMITS	11/2	TYRONE WELLS - THE LIFT ME UP TOUR
9/22	GARY PUCKETT	11/3	SUPER DIAMOND
9/27	QUEEN NATION	11/10	DAVID WILCOX
9/28	QUEEN NATION	12/7	BLUE OYSTER CULT
10/4	TRASHCAN SINATRAS	12/21	AMBROSIA
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Seattle & Denver

Savage Love Live recently swooped into Seattle's Egyptian Theater and Denver's Oriental Theater. I couldn't get to everyone's questions at these sold-out shows—there were so many great questions, and I'm just one lousy advice columnist—so I'm going to power through as many as I can in this week's column.

Weddings are terrible. I attended "Dueling Dallas Lesbian Weddings," and both couples are pressuring me to tell them whose wedding was better (or better in the eyes of social media). Am I obligated to "rat" these couples out to one another?
Weddings aren't terrible, people are—some of them, not all of them. But you certainly aren't obligated to "rat" these couples out to one another. You aren't even obligated to speak to any of these terrible people again.

What is the best relationship advice you've ever received?
Cup the balls.

I've been talking to a guy for four months, and we still haven't met in person. He's recently divorced, and I find it odd that he is all into me with sexting, etc., but doesn't want to meet. What do I do?
Stop wasting your time.

I have always loved anal sex with my partner of more than a decade. He loves it, too. We've noticed a trend over the years where he gets melancholy after we have anal sex. He doesn't know why. Do you have any ideas or theories?
Nope.

How do I make sure I enjoy my upcoming wedding instead of worrying about how it will go?
Elope.

I'm a woman, and I've been in a relationship for two years. My partner is not able to make me orgasm. He is my first lover. HELP.
If you can make yourself come, show your partner how you do it. If you can't make yourself come—if you're one of those people who have never masturbated—start masturbating, learn how to make yourself come, and then show him how you do it.

My boyfriend is a cuckold and very into the humiliation aspect of cuckolding. I've been hooking up with one guy who is so into humiliating my boyfriend that it's kind of freaking me out. They message each other so much, I feel sad I'm the one being cheated on!
You get the D. Let your boyfriend have the DMs.

We are married 10 years, monogamish, pansexual. My friends are opening up their relationship, and so am we. Any good reason I shouldn't have sex with my friends?
Only the most obvious one. If someone gets hurt, these friendships could end. But friendships end all the time without anyone getting off, so...

I'm 31, he's 44. I know how you feel about splitting the rent in proportion to income, but my higher-earning boyfriend points out that I've opted for more leisure time and less stress with my lower-paying job. How should we split the rent?
Someone making two or three times as much money as their partner should be willing to pay more of the rent. Splitting the rent 50/50 wouldn't be fair, particularly if the higher earner wants a larger and/or nicer space, because then the partner making more money is effectively having their lifestyle subsidized by the one making less. But if someone chooses to make less money because they want more leisure time, they shouldn't expect to have that choice underwritten by a partner making more money. I don't think they should pay half the rent—but a higher percentage of their income should go toward the rent.

How can I nicely convince my girlfriend to have anal sex?
By using your words—your best noncoercive, non-threatening, willing-to-take-no-for-an-answer words. And it will help if you tell her you're willing to take it slow and to take turns.

My boyfriend of 1.5 years doesn't feel it's "appropriate" to tell me he is in love with me. I want so bad to have our "I love you" moment. What should I do?
Say it to him—and if he doesn't hit you with an "I love you, too," then either he's not in love with you or he's in love with you and knows how badly you want to hear him say "I love you," but he won't say it because he likes to torture you.

My partner discovered—with someone else—that she loves BDSM, including pain and humiliation. I'm trying, but she's not impressed. What do I do?
Presumably, your partner doesn't love BDSM to the exclusion of all the hot vanilla sex she'd been having with you previous to this discovery. So instead of trying to be something or someone you're not, let your partner enjoy BDSM with others while making sure you two maintain your sexual connection by continuing to explore your shared sexual interests.

Blair says all blowjobs should end with a swallow. Thoughts?
Blair is entitled to Blair's opinion...but Blair isn't the boss of blowjobs.

I've been with my partner for two years. We love each other and have no real issues, except family. I'm out of the closet to everyone in my life. My partner is, too. Her mom "accepts" her being gay, except around extended family. At family gatherings, her mom pretends my partner is heterosexual and interested in men, as if our two-year relationship doesn't exist. Is it okay that I think this is not okay?
It's okay that you don't find this at all okay. But I'm curious what your partner thinks. Presumably your partner isn't a houseplant—which means she must have feelings about this and, presumably, she's capable of communicating those feelings to her mother.

How do ya introduce BDSM into your sexual relationship?
Suddenly and without warning—trust me, the element of surprise is crucial when it comes to kinky sex. Joking! For the record: You introduce BDSM into your sexual relationship by first initiating a conversation about your sexual interests and, if there's interest on both sides, gradually and slowly introducing JV BDSM play into your relationship.

I ran into a co-worker at a fetish party and he was wearing a "URINAL" T-shirt. Does that mean what I think it means?
It means you don't have to leave your workstation when you need to take a piss.

Thanks to everyone who came to Savage Love Live in Seattle and Denver! We're next going to San Francisco (with Stormy Daniels!), Chicago, Madison, Minneapolis (with Stormy Daniels!), Toronto and Somerville. For more info and tickets, go to savagelovecast.com/events.

On the Lovecast (savagelovecast.com), Dan chats with sex workers' rights advocate Alex Andrews. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage and visit ITMFA.org.

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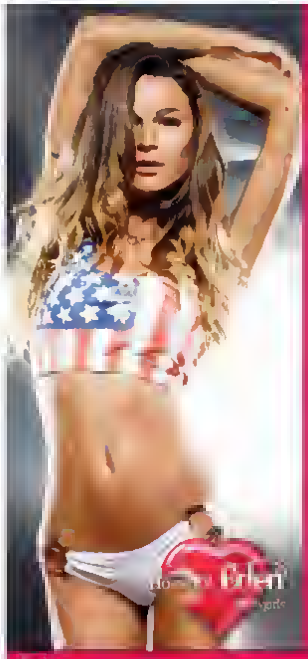

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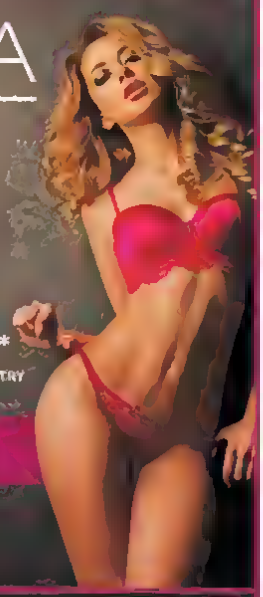

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Toke of the Week

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Nug Sunshine OG

OG Kush is known for its heavy-hitting potency, with all its THC testing in the upper 20s and lower 30s percentage-wise. Nug's latest offering, the aptly named Sunshine OG, is no exception.

What sets Sunshine apart is the uplifting and euphoric effects that help to balance and temper a mellower OG feel, plus there's a potent smell of summer fruits with mild skunkyness. This product is the perfect choice for smokers who love the power of OG but want to stay functional while poolside this summer.

I brought along a few of my finely rolled joints filled with Nug's carefully crafted flowers when I went to see Keanu Reeves' latest punch-fest and apart from spending way too much money on stale popcorn, I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent sedated on a recliner while watching a man kill everyone in New York over a dog.

COURTESY OF NUG

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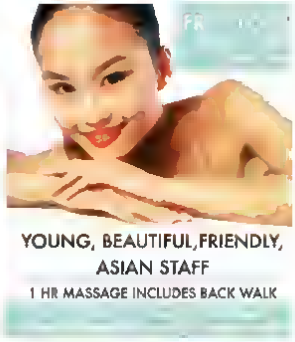
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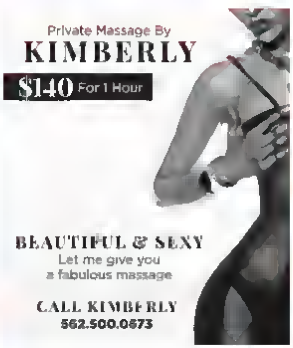
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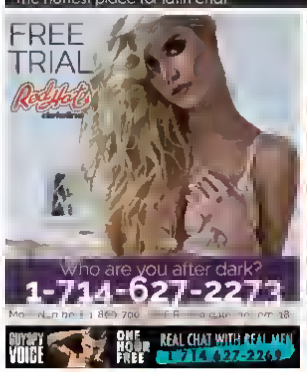
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Warriors and the Oracle

Looking forward and back at basketball and canned beans

BY LISA BLACK

LISA BLACK

When the Oracle calls you, you must respond. So I headed to my cousin's place in San Francisco on May 8 to join her for Game 5 of the NBA Western Conference semifinals between the Golden State Warriors (yay!!) and the Houston Rockets (boo!!) But first we had to live through the suspense of whether there'd even be a fifth game because the Warriors won the first two at home, and the sport-o-sphere was predicting a sweep Until James Harden and his teammates won their home games and the series was tied for the battle I'd get to see Already, the MVP-caliber players on both teams were bloodied (eyes), with dislocated joints (fingers) and bruised bones (tail)

My cousin and I were born into basketball-mad families Her dad and his twin, my mom's brothers, went undefeated throughout their high-school years in Brooklyn and played at Long Island University until World War II took them overseas, where they played some more After Germany and Japan surrendered, the twins each played a year of pro ball Being born in LA, I'm a Lakers fan first, Golden State second But LA has sucked, and no soothsayer is needed to predict they will for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, the Bay Area team has risen into a dynasty

After dispatching the Rockets and sweeping the Portland Trail Blazers, they have "Won the West" and are headed to the championships for a fifth year in a row Only one other team has accomplished this feat. The Magic and Byrd teams didn't, neither did the Phil Jackson Lakers nor his Bulls

But I didn't know any of that when I flew north on game day, ate the best falafel sandwich of my life at Old Jerusalem Cafe on Valencia (secret ingredient. eggplant), then caught BART at 16th and Mission to Oakland, getting there nice and early We disembarked at the Coliseum station and made our way through towering plywood tunnels covered in photos 10 times human size of the Core Four (Stephen Curry, Andre Iguodala, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson—who played high-school ball in OC and was a classmate of former Weekling Mary "Prankster" Carreon) and the super-superstar Kevin Durant (KD) But images of two-time league MVP Curry predominate. Oakland honors him at the top of its pantheon, even more so for adjusting his game to accommodate KD's spectacular skills

I wanted to stop for a pic, but my cousin pointed out that while the earthquake retrofit in progress was great, in the meantime, it was vulnerable to collapse in even a mild trembler

We climbed out of the station and up onto a pedestrian bridge with a chainlink cover Strewn along the ground were vendors grilling hotdogs on makeshift barbecues or hawking knockoff tees and booze Once across, we had to circumnavigate the Oakland A's stadium before going through tight security Lastly, we climbed the Oracle's mountain of exterior stairs, which are covered in glowing gold carpet and thoroughly stained We are in the Town now—Oakland's nickname since the 1850s and 1990s hip-hop

DJ D Sharp created the soundtrack for finding our seats, where an XL "Strength in Numbers" Warriors tee awaited all. As soon as my head poked through, I saw KD taking warm-up shots, his length and strength immediately recognizable even from our seats high up in Club 200 Harden and his beard were doing the same in a jarring red. Gold was everywhere you looked in the arena, which was state-of-the-art in the 1990s. Since it has sold out for nearly 340 consecutive games and is notorious for loudness, I'd brought earplugs, but I never put them in. I joined the 20,000 fans on almost every chant and rhythmic handclap, every melodic "Warrrriorrrrs," until I got the two notes right. Jubilation and uninhibited joy freely expressed. The only cheer I skipped was "REF YOU SUCK."

The game had the arc of a play It started with an even back-and-forth, as we figured out who'd take off or if the lead would bounce. Then excitement began to build, and we leapt to our feet with each three-pointer made. I couldn't take my eyes off the court. There is no announcer telling you what's happening or score within easy view The fans watch the action intently with high basketball IQs. When a time out is called, I relax in my seat, pick up my $15 ale for a sip and seek out the score. Warriors are up by double-digits.

But that lead evaporated. At last, KD hit a fall-away jumper from a sweet spot we saw in his warm-up. I was sure he'd ignited a run and was headed to his 35-plus postseason average But in the next second, he was limping. Stunned, we watched him head to the locker room. We barely breathed, but the Core Four dug in on defense and returned to their pre-KD style of play to prevail—with Curry affirming Oakland's idolization.

We funneled out slowly, retracing our steps shoulder-to-shoulder with thousands of content strangers. "Warrrriorrrrs" would break out and be joined. At the chainlink bridge, we had to squish around a cooler Inside, I saw a bottle of hard liquor and cans of Modelo floating in melted ice I kidded my cousin, asking if she wanted a brew for the walk across the bridge. Without missing a beat, a guy held up a can for me and said, "You want one? We bought an extra."

It was absolutely thrilling, from beginning to end.

As we rode through the dark tunnel under the bay, I wondered why theater couldn't be more euphoric True, most performances I cherish unfold in intimate spaces where I've been spellbound or astonished. I wept in true Greek catharsis not long after my father's death, when a character describing a renegade funeral rite set a tiny boat ablaze, a pyre for her dad. The Maverick Theater's recent adaptation of 1933's *King Kong*, which pushed a Saturday-afternoon-matinee button that allowed the audience to holler and recoil from the projected monster, merely grazed it.

Then it hits me The intoxication of a playoff home game has come closest to my days back in Chicago, when I was watching Danny Thompson in his scathing DANNY AND HIS THINGS shows (George Bush was a potato, Bill Clinton a sweet potato) Polite yet utter mayhem so pants-wettingly funny you missed bits because the hilarity was out of control. He passed away just days ago, so the photos and memories have been flying on social media as freely as the canned beans did in his performances RIP, Slotkins

Earlier, at Oracle Arena, fire-blasts introduced the players, the cheering relentless on defense and offense no matter how big the deficit or lead. I joked with the person seated to my left to not throw our popcorn at the Houston fan wearing a Rockets jersey "He's just some guy," I told him, and then we laughed

Will that Oakland-born fan take BART into the City when the team leaves his Town for its new arena in San Francisco? Will the Bay Bridge logo on Warriors jerseys keep the fans linked and loud? Only the Oracle knows for sure

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SUMMER TRAVEL ISSUE

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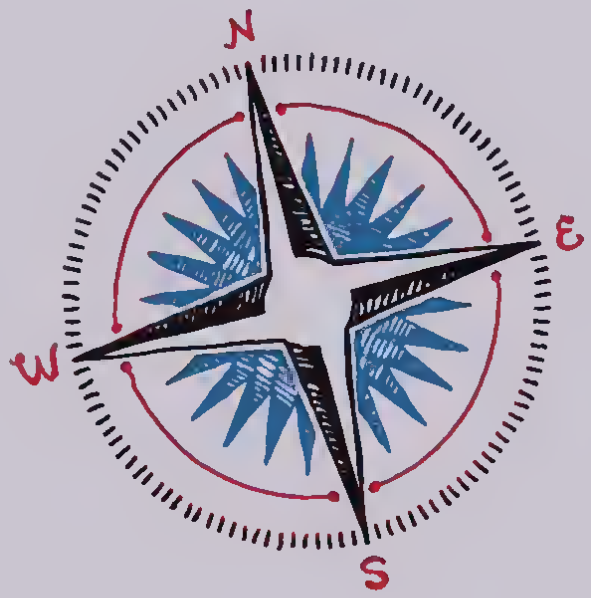

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